REMARKS

Claims 1, 17, 28, 37, 39 and 40 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 41-47 have been added. Claims Claims 1-40 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, --- have been amended to clarify the subject matter recited therein. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the present application is requested.

I. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-9, 12-32, AND 34-40 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-9, 12-32, and 34-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,057,874 to Michaud (the "Michaud patent"). It is respectfully submitted that Michaud does not anticipate any of claims 1-9, 12-32, and 34-40, for at least the following reasons.

The Michaud patent purportedly relates to an infrared blaster control system for cable television networks, in which selective VCR control codes are transmitted from a headend to a user's settop terminal. These VCR control codes, which are generated only in accordance with particular types of VCRs, are stored within the settop terminal, so that the settop terminal may properly control a VCR in response to signals transmitted by an infrared remote control.

As an initial matter, claims 1, 17, 28, 37, 39 and 40 have been canceled, without prejudice. As regards new claim 41, however, the following is recited:

> 41. A communication and control system, comprising:
> an input device generating a data signal;
> a command device generating a command signal associated with the data signal;
> a first device receiving the data and the command signal associated with the data signal, the first device generating a transmission signal including the data signal and the associated command signal;
> a second device receiving the transmission signal and extracting the data signal and the associated command signal from the transmission signal;

an output device receiving the data signal from the second device; and

at least one target device controlled automatically as a function of the associated command signal while the output device provides an output as a function of the data signal.

Claims 2-9 and 12 depend (directly or indirectly) from claim 41. Respectfully, claim 31 recites a command device which generates a command signal that is associated with a data signal, a target device that is automatically controlled as a function of the associated command signal while the output device provides an output as a function of the data signal (i.e., the data signal with which the command signal is associated). In the Michaud patent, VCR codes are transmitted in, for example, the VBI of programs. However, these VCR codes are not associated with the program with which they are transmitted, nor do they automatically control the VCR while the program within which they are transmitted is played on the television. Instead, the VCR codes appear to be independent from the program. The VCR codes are extracted and stored in a settop box for later use. In accordance with claim 41, a target device is controlled as a function of a command signal (associated with a data signal), ***while*** an output device provides a data signal as a function of that data signal. In the example embodiment described in the present application, a TV program may be displayed on a television as a function of a data signal (e.g., a tv signal) while the command signal associated therewith automatically controls the lights in the room.

Claim 13 recites the following:

13. A generating device of a system for providing a transmission signal, the system controlling at least one target device, comprising:

a command receiver receiving a command signal for use in controlling the at least one target device, the command signal being received from a command device;

a command coder converting the command signal into a first signal, the command coder being coupled to the command receiver;

a data receiver receiving a data signal from an input device; and

a data coder converting the data signal into a second signal, the data coder being coupled to the data receiver;

a modulator coupled to the command and data coders and generating the transmission signal using the first and second signals; and

a transmitter coupled to the modulator and transmitting the transmission signal, wherein data in the command signal and data in the data signal are linked so that when the data signal is used at a receiving end of the transmission signal, the at least one target device is controlled as a function of the command signal while an output device at the receiving end provides an output as a function of the data signal.

Claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 13. In accordance with claim 13, transmission signals are generated using a first signal, i.e., a converted command signal, and a second signal, i.e., a converted data signal. Data in the command signal and data in the data signal are linked so that a target device is controlled while an output is provided as a function of the data signal (i.e., at the receiving end of the transmission). As discussed above, the VCR codes described in the Michaud patent appear to be independent of the program within which it is transmitted. Accordingly, the VCR codes are not linked so that a target device is controlled while an output device (e.g., a television) plays the television program. It appears that the VCR codes are not associated in any way with the television program within which it is transmitted.

Claim 16 recites the following:

16. A control device of a system, the system controlling at least one target device, comprising:

a receiver receiving a transmission signal;

a demodulator extracting a first signal and a second signal from the transmission signal;

a command decoder decoding the first signal into the command signal;

a data decoder decoding a data signal from the second signal; and

a data transmitter receiving the data signal and providing the data signal to an output device;

wherein the at least one target device is controlled as a function of the command signal while an output device provides an output as a function of the data signal.

Claims 18-26 depend from claim 16. As discussed above, in the Michaud patent, the VCR codes are received and stored in a settop box. These VCR codes are not used to control a target device *while* an output device provides an output (e.g., the television) as a function of the program within which the VCR

codes are sent. Accordingly, the Michaud patent does not described "wherein the at least one target device is controlled as a function of the command signal while an output device provides an output as a function of the data signal," as recited in claim 16.

Claim 27 recites the following:

> 27. A method for controlling at least one target device, comprising:
> (a) providing a command signal and a data signal to a first device, the command signal being associated with the data signal;
> (b) converting the command and data signals to a transmission signal using the first device;
> (c) transmitting the transmission signal to a second device;
> (d) extracting the command signal from the transmission signal using the second device;
> (e) controlling the at least one target device as a function of the command signal;
> (f) extracting the data signal from the transmission signal using the second device; and
> (g) providing the data signal to an output device, the output device providing an output as a function of the data signal while the at least one target device is controlled as a function of the command signal associated with the data signal.

Claims 30-33 depend from claim 27. Claim 34 recites the following:

> 34. A method for controlling at least one target device, comprising:
> (a) obtaining a first address and a second address from a first device;
> (b) providing the first and second addresses to a command device;
> (c) providing a message, located at the first address to the first device using the command device, the message including the second address;
> (d) transmitting the message, located at the first address, to a second device;
> (e) extracting the second address from the message using the second device;
> (f) storing the second address using a memory unit;
> (g) providing a command signal and a data signal to the first device;
> (h) transmitting the command signal, located at the second address, to the second device;
> (i) controlling the at least one target device using the command signal;
> (j) transmitting the data signal to the second device;
> (k) providing the data signal to an output device by the second device;
> (j) providing by the output device an output as a function of the data signal while the at least one target device is controlled using the command signal.

Claims 35 and 36 depend from claim 34. Claim 38 recites the following:

> 38. A computer-readable storage medium storing a set of instructions, the set of instructions capable of being executed by a processor to implement a control operation of at least one target device on at least one computer system, the method comprising:
> (a) providing a command signal and a data signal to a first device, the command signal being associated with the data signal;
> (b) converting the command and data signals to a transmission signal using the first device;
> (c) transmitting the transmission signal to a second device;
> (d) extracting the command signal from the transmission signal using the second device; and
> (e) controlling the at least one target device as a function of the command signal while an output device provides an output as a function of the data signal to which the command signal is associated.

As discussed above, in the Michaud patent, the transmitted VCR codes appear to be independent from the programs. Accordingly, the Michaud patent does not describe an output device providing an output as a function of a data signal ***while*** the VCR is controlled using VCR codes using commands associated with the data signal (see, e.g., step (g) of claim 27, step (j) of claim 34, and (e) of claim 38).

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the Michaud patent does not anticipate any of pending claims 2-9, 12-16, 18-27, 29-32, 34-36, 38 and 41. Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims over the Michaud patent is, therefore, requested. 1, 17, 28, 37, 39 and 40

II. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 10, 11 and 33 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 10, 11 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the Michaud patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,108,042 to Adams et al. (the "Adams patent"). It is respectfully submitted that the Michaud patent in view of the Adams patent does not render any of claims 10, 11 and 33 obvious, for at least the following reasons.

Claims 10 and 11 ultimately depend from claim 1. Claim 33 depends from claim 27. Accordingly, the arguments presented above in connection with the Machaud patent and claims 1 and 33 apply equally to claims 10 and 11, and claim 33 (respectively). The Adams patent does not cure the deficiencies of the Machaud patent. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 10, 11 and 33 over the Michaud patent in view of the Adams patent should be withdrawn.

III. NEW CLAIMS

New claims 41-47 have been added. Support for the subject matter of the new claims can be throughout the specification.

IV. CONCLUSION

In light of at least the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1, 17, 28, 37, 39 and 40 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

2. (Amended) The system according to claim [1] 41, wherein the data signal includes at least one of a video signal, an audio signal and an information signal.

3. (Amended) The system according to claim [1] 41, wherein the output device includes at least one of a television set, a display device, an audio device and a data processor.

4. (Amended) The system according to claim [1] 41, wherein the at least one target device includes at least one of a light control device, a climate control device, a computer, a printer, a display device, an audio system, a telephone, a television set, a toy, a motorized device, a controllable device, a home appliance control device.

5. (Amended) The system according to claim [1] 41, further comprising:

a network arrangement facilitating a transmission of the transmission signal from the first device to the second device.

7. (Amended) The system according to claim [1] 41, wherein the transmission signal is in one of an analog format and a digital format.

13. (Amended) A generating device of a system for providing a transmission signal, the system controlling at least one target device, comprising:

a command receiver receiving a command signal for use in controlling the at least one target device, the command signal being received from a command device;

a command coder converting the command signal into a first signal, the command coder being coupled to the command receiver;

a data receiver receiving a data signal from an input device; and

a data coder converting the data signal into a second signal, the data coder being coupled to the data receiver;

a modulator coupled to the command and data coders and generating the transmission signal using the first and second signals; and

a transmitter coupled to the modulator and transmitting the transmission signal, wherein data in the command signal and data in the data signal are linked so that when the data signal is used at a receiving end of the transmission signal, the at least one target device is controlled as a function of the command signal while an output device at the receiving end provides an output as a function of the data signal.

16. (Amended) A control device of a system, the system controlling at least one target device, comprising:

a receiver receiving a transmission signal;

a demodulator extracting a first signal and a second signal from the transmission signal;

a command decoder decoding the first signal into the command signal[,];

a data decoder decoding a data signal from the second signal; and

a data transmitter receiving the data signal and providing the data signal to an output device;

wherein the at least one target device is controlled as a function of the command signal while an output device provides an output as a function of the data signal.

27. (Amended) A method for controlling at least one target device, comprising:

(a) providing a command signal and a data signal to a first device, the command signal being associated with the data signal;

(b) converting the command and data signals to a transmission signal using the first device;

(c) transmitting the transmission signal to a second device;

(d) extracting the command signal from the transmission signal using the second device; [and]

(e) controlling the at least one target device as a function of the command signal;

(f) extracting the data signal from the transmission signal using the second device; and

(g) providing the data signal to an output device, the output device providing an output as a function of the data signal while the at least one target device is controlled as a function of the command signal associated with the data signal.

34. (Amended) A method for controlling at least one target device, comprising:

(a) obtaining a first address and a second address from a first device;

(b) providing the first and second addresses to a command device;

(c) providing a message, located at the first address to the first device using the command device, the message including the second address;

(d) transmitting the message, located at the first address, to a second device;

(e) extracting the second address from the message using the second device;

(f) storing the second address using a memory unit;

(g) providing a command signal and a data signal to the first device;

(h) transmitting the command signal, located at the second address, to the second device; [and]

(i) controlling the at least one target device using the command signal;

(j) transmitting the data signal to the second device;

(k) providing the data signal to an output device by the second device; and

(l) providing, by the output device, an output as a function of the data signal while the at least one target device is controlled using the command signal.

38. A computer-readable storage medium storing a set of instructions, the set of instructions capable of being executed by a processor to implement a control operation of at least one target device on at least one computer system, the method comprising:

(a) providing a command signal and a data signal to a first device, the command signal being associated with the data signal;

(b) converting the command and data signals to a transmission signal using the first device;

(c) transmitting the transmission signal to a second device;

(d) extracting the command signal from the transmission signal using the second device; and

(e) controlling the at least one target device as a function of the command signal while an output device provides an output as a function of the data signal to which the command signal is associated.

38. (Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a set of instructions, the set of instructions capable of being

executed by a processor to implement a control operation of at least one target device on at least one computer system, the method comprising:

(a) providing a command signal and a data signal to a first device, the command signal being associated with the data signal;

(b) converting the command and data signals to a transmission signal using the first device;

(c) transmitting the transmission signal to a second device;

(d) extracting the command signal from the transmission signal using the second device; and

(e) controlling the at least one target device as a function of the command signal while an output device provides an output as a function of the data signal to which the command signal is associated.

Please add the following new claims:

41. (New) A communication and control system, comprising:

an input device generating a data signal;

a command device generating a command signal associated with the data signal;

a first device receiving the data and the command signal associated with the data signal, the first device generating a transmission signal including the data signal and the associated command signal;

a second device receiving the transmission signal and extracting the data signal and the associated command signal from the transmission signal;

an output device receiving the data signal from the second device; and

at least one target device controlled automatically as a function of the associated command signal while the output device provides an output as a function of the data signal.

42. (New) The system according to claim 1, wherein the data signal includes particular content, and the associated command signal is associated with the particular content and wherein the output device renders the particular content while the at least one target device is controlled as a function of the associated command signal, and wherein the particular content includes at least one of audio data and video data.

43. (New) The system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one target device is controlled automatically as a function of the associated command signal and without user intervention while the output device provides the output.

45. (New) The system according to claim 1, wherein the output device and the at least one target device are separate devices.

44. (New) A method for controlling a target device, comprising:

receiving a data signal including content;

receiving a command signal, the command signal including commands, associated with the content, for controlling the target device; and

controlling the target device as a function of the commands while rendering the content associated therewith via an output device.

45. (New) The method according to claim 44, wherein the content includes at least one of audio and video.

46. (New) The method according to claim 44, wherein the commands are linked to the content so that the commands are available for accessing to control the target device each time the content associated therewith is rendered.

47. (New) The method according to claim 44, wherein the controlling step includes controlling the target device as a

function of the commands while rendering the content associated therewith via the output device, the output device being a separate device from the target device.